October/November/December 1996 Volume 21, Number 4

A summary of recent news stories from the University of California San Francisco

UCSF

To Our Neighbors

UCSF, California Pacific introduce Brown & Toland Medical Group

UCSF and California Pacific Medical Group recently formed the Brown & Toland Medical Group which offers consumers, who choose a health maintenance (HMO) or a point of service plan (POS), a wide choice of primary care and specialist physicians as well as access to hospital services at UCSF or California Pacific Medical Center.

Named after two health care pioneers, the Brown & Toland Medical Group allows consumers to mix and match high-quality physicians from both institutions. "Brown & Toland offers the largest possible network of physicians, with convenient locations and referrals for specialized physician services," says Bruce Wintroub, executive vice dean of the UCSF School of Medicine. "We are combining the best of both private practice and the university worlds."

Indeed, health plan members who choose Brown & Toland for their care will have access to more than 300 primary care physicians with offices located in 22 of 24 residential zip codes in San Francisco.

Although Brown & Toland becomes fully operational in January 1997, consumers may begin selecting HMO and POS health plans accepted by the group during the fall open enrollment period. Existing members who have a UCSF Medical Group primary care doctor do not need to change medical groups. Since the new group has contracts with most of the HMO health plans serving San Francisco, enrollees will not have to worry about having to switch physicians if their health plan changes. UCSF and Brown & Toland do not sell insurance, but contract with insurers that offer the health plans listed below. For more information about Brown & Toland or for referral to a physician, please call 800-CALL-MDs.

Individuals who select a preferred provider organization (PPO), other indemnity insurance, such as most private insurance, Medi-Cal managed care and Medicare in a fee-for-service manner, should select the UCSF Medical Group. For questions about insurance or UCSF, please call the UCSF Health Connection at 885-7777.

Brown & Toland health plans*

Point of Service Plans
Blue Shield HMO Plus POS
Blue Cross Plus POS
Cigna POS
FHP POS (formerly FHP/TakeCare)
Foundation Health Flexible Choice POS
Health Net Select POS
Health Net Elect Exclusive Provider POS
PacifiCare POS
Prudential Plus POS (formerly PruCare Plus, UC Care)
United HealthCare Select HMO Plus

Health Maintenance Organizations
Blue Shield Access+ (formerly Blue Shield HMO)
Cigna HMO
FHP HealthCare HMO (formerly FHP/TakeCare)
Foundation Wise Choice HMO
Health Net HMO
Maxicare HMO
Omni Healthcare HMO
PacifiCare HMO
Prudential HealthCare HMO (formerly PruCare HMO)
United HealthCare Select HMO (formerly MetraHealth HMO)

Senior HMOs
Cigna Senior
Health Net Seniority Plus
Prudential HealthCare SeniorCare
Secure Horizons, a division of PacifiCare
Shield 65 (Blue Shield HMO Senior Plan)

* Effective Jan. 1, 1997

Note: Aetna health plan enrollees may not have access to UCSF facilities in the first year.

Grant to create patient-friendly breast care center

The UCSF Cancer Center and the California Pacific Medical Center Research Institute have received a $4.3 million grant from the US Department of Defense to create a breast care center, where a team of specialists under one roof will work together to solve women's complex health problems.

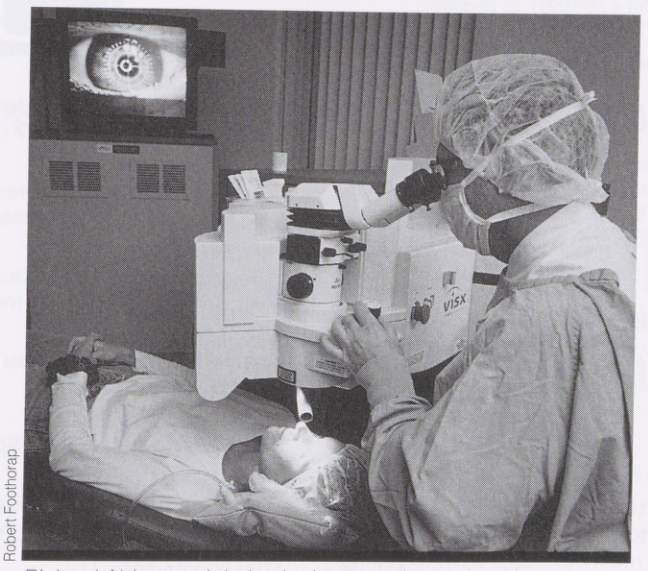
The Bay Area Breast Care Center will bring radiologists, cancer specialists, surgeons, plastic surgeons, and pathologists together on the first floor of the outpatient UCSF/Mount Zion Cancer Center to coordinate "one stop" care for patients. Staff will arrange all visits to specialists and will help patients, families and friends gather information about clinical trials, innovative treatments and standards of care. "Providing one place for information and support removes the need for coordinating insurance authorizations, multiple specialists and multiple visits," says Laura Esserman, UCSF assistant professor of surgery. "A woman needs to focus on the problem at hand, not on how to make the medical system work for her."

California Pacific and UCSF experts will also collaborate to study the impact of alternative mind-body and spiritually oriented approaches to health care. Women will be able to address the emotional impact of their diagnoses as well as choose from services including psychotherapy, meditation, yoga, dance and art therapies.

"We want to make some changes in the way we practice medicine to find the simplest, easiest and most patient-friendly way to evaluate people who have breast abnormalities and cancer," Esserman adds. For example, a woman who has an abnormal mammogram now may have to wait two weeks or longer before she gets a diagnosis because of the time it takes to coordinate and make appointments with specialists. "Our goal is to get a diagnosis with the fewest procedures in the shortest period of time possible, thereby maximizing quality and minimizing cost," she says.

This grant represents an important step in financing innovative approaches to treat breast cancer, a disease that will strike an estimated 184,300 women this year. US Rep. Nancy Pelosi, (D-SF) is among those credited with helping to obtain this grant. Renovations at the center, located at 2356 Sutter on the UCSF/Mount Zion campus, are expected to be completed in 1997.

Revolutionary eye surgery



Robert Foothorap

Richard Abbott, ophthalmologist, uses the excimer laser to correct the nearsightedness of Kimberly Hodes of Kentfield. To learn more about the excimer laser, call the UCSF Vision Correction Center at (415) 476-5021.

UCSF, SFGH get top marks in survey of best hospitals

The UCSF Medical Center ranks among the country's top 10 hospitals and SF General Hospital rates as the nation's best place for AIDS care, according to a U.S. News & World Report survey.

Results of the survey of "America's Best Hospitals" appear in the Aug. 12 issue of the magazine, which ranks the UCSF Medical Center seventh overall on the "Honor Roll" of the nation's leading hospitals. To make the honor roll, a hospital had to rank among the top 10 in at least three of 16 specialties.

UCSF rates as one of the top ten hospitals in seven specialities, namely: AIDS, cancer, cardiology, endocrinology, gastroenterology, neurology, and ophthalmology. UCSF also ranks among the hospitals listed as the best in the nation in geriatrics, gynecology, orthopedic care, otolaryngology, pediatrics, rheumatology and urology.

For the sixth year in a row, SFGH rates as the nation's best place for AIDS care. SFGH also entered the rankings this year in gynecological care, listed as 41st.

This is the seventh time U.S. News has compiled a list of "the nation's top hospitals, magnets for the best and the brightest researchers and clinicians." A total of 1,961 hospitals were evaluated in the survey, conducted in conjunction with the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago.

UCSF gets home care grant

UCSF received a three-year, $400,000 grant from the US Department of Health and Human Services, to develop a new nursing specialty to improve the quality of home care.

The grant will establish a master's of science program in advanced practice home care nursing. It comes during an unprecedented growth in home care services due to the aging population and the changing health care environment, says the grant's principal investigator, Carmen Portillo, assistant professor in the UCSF Department of Community Health Systems.

Advances in home care technology now allow dozens of complex illnesses once treated almost exclusively in the hospital to be treated more cost-effectively at home.

The grant will be used in part to train graduates for a highly technological environment, helping them gain the knowledge and skills necessary to use and monitor advanced medical devices in the home, as well as computer-based systems to manage patient care.

MS risk may be inherited

An international research team has homed in on DNA regions that may house genes that can cause people to become susceptible to multiple sclerosis (MS).

The researchers say their study provides strong evidence that an elevated risk for MS, a disabling neurologic disorder that affects more than a million people worldwide, can be inherited. There is no cure, and few drugs treat MS.

Specific causes of MS remain a mystery, but epidemiological evidence points to an increased risk of MS among relatives of those affected — suggesting a genetic cause. Environmental influences also appear to play a role in MS since only one-third of genetically identical twins of parents with the disease also develop MS, researchers found. In addition, the disease is more common in temperate climates, possibly due to unknown environmental factors.

All the DNA segments linked to MS in this study contain scores of genes, and more research is needed before any specific genes can be implicated in MS. (See MS study on back page.)

More news for you
on the back page

What's happening

To Our Neighbor
October/Novemb
A quarterly caler
events at UC Sa

Special Events

Wednesday, Oct. 2
Music in the Library Recital Series. Latin and contemporary songs by guitarist Michael Walsh, radiology, will be accompanied by flutist Derrick Yih, and singer/guitarist Ramiro Garcia, 4th year medical student. Co-sponsored by the Sarah Childs Chamber Music Fund. Lange Reading Room, UCSF Library, 530 Parnassus. Wine and cheese reception at 5 p.m. Music begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 476-6761.

Thursday and Friday, Oct. 3-4
Regents' Lectures. Reinheld Janzen, professor of art history at Washburn University, speaks on "The 'Art' of Healing: Medicine for the Spirit" on Oct. 3. John M. Janzen, professor of anthropology at University of Kansas, presents "Breaking the Cycle of Violence: a Medical Anthropological Analysis of Justice, Forgiveness and Healing in Rwanda and Burundi" on Oct. 4. Both lectures begin at 3 p.m. in N 217.

Renaissance Appel's "Uncle Ernest and Aunt Ruthie"

Monday-Tuesday, Oct. 14-15
Faculty/Student/Staff Art Show. Millberry Conference Center, 500 Parnassus. Opening reception, Oct. 14, 4 p.m. Call 476-6761.

Wednesday, Oct. 23
Skits and Scats. Campus-wide talent show. Benefits the Cole Hall Cinema sound system. Cole Hall, 513 Parnassus. Co-sponsored by ASUC and Empact! 7 p.m. $3/$5. Call 476-6761.

Thursday, Oct. 24
Public Hearing on EIR for Long Range Development Plan. UCSF Laurel Heights Auditorium, 3333 California Street. 7 p.m. Call Community and Governmental Relations at 476-3206.

Friday, Nov. 1
Gospel Choir at UCSF. Cole Hall, 513 Parnassus. 7 p.m. $3/$5. Call 476-6761.

Thursday, Nov. 7
Gala Benefit Concert for UCSF Cancer Center. Linda Ronstadt, Aaron Neville and Dennis Miller to perform at this black-tie affair. Davies Symphony Hall, Grove and Van Ness. Ticket prices: $50-$1,500. Call 864-6000 or 510/762-BASS.

Tuesday, Nov. 12 and Saturday, Nov. 16
UCSF Orchestra. Nov. 12 at Millberry Gym, 500 Parnassus. 7 p.m. Nov. 16 at St. Gregory's Church, 500 De Haro Street. $3/$5, UCSF students free. Call 476-6761.

Thursday, Dec. 5
7th Annual Holiday Crafts Faire. Features handmade crafts created by UCSF employees and community artists. Millberry Gym and Conference Center. 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Call 476-2675.

Friday, Dec. 6
Tomkins Lecture and Concert. Professor Richard Dawkins, Oxford University, will deliver the lecture and the Stanford Quartet will perform the music program. A reception at the Faculty/Alumni House follows. 3-5 p.m. Call 502-5141.

Wednesday, Dec. 11
UCSF Brown Bag Lecture Series 20th Anniversary Celebration. Joseph Ladou, associate physician diplomate of medicine, presents *UCSF: Yesterday and Today.* Noon. Call 476-4394.

Recreation & Fitness

UCSF Millberry Recreation and Fitness Center offers ongoing classes in crafts, music, acting, cooking as well as classes in meditation, joint care, Feldenkrais, Pilates, tai chi, and yoga. Call 476-1115 for a fall catalog.

Affirmative Action, Diversity Celebration

Embracing Rainbows is an affirmative action and diversity celebration put together by several campus groups to bring free events during September and October. Call 476-5222.

Thursday, Oct. 3
Film: "The Color of Fear." Cole Hall, 513 Parnassus. 7 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 18
Poetry reading, live music. Toland Hall, 533 Parnassus. 12-2 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 24
Reverend Cecil Williams speaks. Williams is Minister of Liberation at Glide Memorial Church. HSW 302, 513 Parnassus Avenue. 12-1 p.m.

AIDS Programs

The UCSF AIDS Health Project (AHP) offers a variety of free support groups for residents of San Francisco, including groups for people with AIDS, who are asymptomatic HIV+, HIV+ African-American heterosexual men, HIV- with AIDS-related concerns and caregivers. Drop-in groups, monthly disability workshops, social events for HIV+ and HIV- people and meditation and self-help groups also are offered. The Project also provides free individual risk assessments & referrals. For more information, an intake interview for a particular group or an appointment for a risk assessment, visit the AHP at its new location, 400 Castro St., or call 476-3902.

Great Expectations for Women's Health

Sponsored by the UCSF Birth Center. Call 476-6667 to register for classes and for information about Mothers of Twins Club.

Fridays, Oct. 4-Nov. 1
Childbirth Preparation: Birth Alternatives. Class series for women wishing to have an intimate, fully involved birth experience. $115 (35% discount for women having a baby at UCSF). Call 476-6667 to register.

Wednesday, Oct. 16
Childbirth and Parenting Film Series. "Understanding the Dimensions of Childbirth." A video presentation and discussion about the uniqueness of each birth experience. 400 Parnassus, A 326. Call 476-MOMS.

Mondays, Oct. 21 and Dec. 9
Parenting Class. Explores physical and emotional transition to parenthood. $15/individual, $20/couple. Call 476-6667 to register.

Monday, Nov. 25
Infant and Child Nutrition. Class covers formula feeding, introduction of solid foods, making your own baby food. $15/individual, $20/couple. Call 476-6667 to register.

Campus Tours

All tours are free and begin at 1 p.m. on the first Friday of each month. Meet in the Moffitt/Long Hospital lobby, 505 Parnassus. Sponsored by Public Service Programs. Call 476-4394.

Institute of Healing Arts & Sciences

Call 330-5353 for a full schedule of events.

Monday, Oct. 14
Introduction to Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction. A meditative approach to coping with anxiety, stress, chronic pain and stress-related illness. Free. Room 729, Nursing Building, enter through 513 Parnassus. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Call 441-3731.

Blood Donation

Wednesday, Oct. 16
Blood Drive. Millberry Conference Center, 500 Parnassus. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Don't wait for a blood drive to give blood. Donate any weekday, 8 a.m.-7:45 p.m., or Saturday, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., at UCSF's Blood Donor Center, Room 131, Long Hospital, 505 Parnassus. For information and appointments call 476-6989.

Brown Bag Lectures

Free lectures held weekly at **12:10 p.m. on Wednesdays in Room 225, Nursing Building,** enter through 513 Parnassus (P); monthly on Thursdays in Room 125, UCSF/Mission Center Building (MCB), 1855 Folsom St.; and monthly on Tuesdays in Herbst Hall, UCSF/Mount Zion (MZ), 1600 Divisadero. Sponsored by Public Service Programs. Call 476-4394.

Wednesday, Oct. 2
Breast Cancer: Treatment Choices, Decisions and Responses. (P)

Wednesday, Oct. 9
African Roots of Carnival Around the World. (P)

Tuesday, Oct. 15
Breast Cancer: Treatment Choices, Decisions and Responses. (MZ)

Wednesday, Oct. 16
Beyond Fear and Pity. An examination of the American Disabilities Act. (P)

Thursday, Oct. 17
Breast Cancer: Treatment Choices, Decisions and Responses. (MCB)

Wednesday, Oct. 23
Another Way to Save a Life. Identifying domestic violence. (P)

Wednesday, Oct. 30
Doctor, Can We Talk? Learn valuable communication skills to improve your relationship with your doctor. (P)

Wednesday, Nov. 6
Heart Attack Risk: How Do We Measure It? What Do We Do About It? (P)

Wednesday, Nov. 13
You Owe it to Yourself. Practical perspectives to support your self esteem. (P)

Tuesday, Nov. 19
Will to Live. Learn about hope, courage, positive attitude and good medical care. (MZ)

Wednesday, Nov. 20
Cosmetic Surgery: Do You Believe in Magic? (P)

Wednesday, Nov. 27
Rekindling Your Holiday Spirit. (P)

Wednesday, Dec. 4
Managing Your Way Through Managed Care. An insiders guide to managed care. (P)

Wednesday, Dec. 11
UCSF Brown Bag Lectures 20th Anniversary Celebration. See item in Special Events. (P)

Community Health Education Series

Free lectures sponsored by the UCSF/Mount Zion Center on Aging. Held on Saturdays from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Call 750-5342 to register and for locations.

Oct. 19
Pain Management in the 21st Century.

Women's Programs

Events sponsored by the Women's Resource Center. Call 476-5222 to register for workshops and for information on ongoing support groups.

Thursday, Oct. 10
Wedded Wife to Lesbian Life: Sharing Our Stories. Poet Ellen Farmer will lead a reading of her own and other authors works. HSW 302, 513 Parnassus Avenue. 12-1 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 12
The Magical Midlife Mystery Tour. Discussions focus on mid-life issues for women. Laurel Heights Auditorium, 3333 California Street. To confirm date and for more information, call 476-0668.

Saturday, Oct. 19
Car Care. Learn how to work safely on your car and use tools properly. 1000 West Grand Avenue, Oakland. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. $45-60. Pre-registration is required.

Saturday, Oct. 26
Basic Carpentry. Learn the names and uses of hand and power tools, basic carpentry and safety. N 417, 513 Parnassus Avenue. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Pre-registration is required.

Aim For Wellness

Health education programs for smoking cessation, asthma control, weight management for the obese and more. Sponsored by UCSF and San Francisco Medical Groups and Health Net. Call 476-0373 for locations. Call 476-1115 to retgster. (Prices: Health Net members/general public.)

Thursdays, Oct. 3 through Dec. 12
Weight managment program. Includes exercise, low-fat/low-calorie eating strategies. 6-8 p.m. $75/$150. There will be a free informational session on Wednesday, Sept. 18.

Monday, Oct. 7
Fitness for Older Adults. Learn how to design and implement a fitness program. 10-11:30 a.m. Free.

Wednesday, Oct. 23
Back Care. Non-diagnostic class teaches how to prevent injury. Registration is required. 6-7:30 p.m. Free/$20.

Monday, Oct. 28
Knee Care. Non-diagnostic class teaches how to prevent injury. Registration is required. 6-7:30 p.m. Free/$20.

Saturday, Nov. 2
Stress Management for Busy People. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Free/$29.

Monday, Nov. 18
Healthy Eating Seminar. Improve your health and reduce risk of heart disease. 10-11:30 a.m. Free.

Monday, Dec. 9
Coping with Loss and Change. Learn how to deal with losses and changes that accompany aging. 10-11:30 a.m. Free.

Mount Zion Community Meetings

Meetings to keep the community apprised of activities of interest and to listen to neighborhood concerns. Next meeting: **Tuesday, Oct. 22.** Executive Board Room, 2nd floor, UCSF/Mount Zion, 1600 Divisadero. 7 p.m. Call 476-3206.

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November/December 1996
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Cole Hall Cinema

Films shown Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays in Cole Hall, 513 Parnassus. Prices: $2 to $3.50. Sponsored by Millberry Arts and Performances. Call 476-2542 or search www.ArtsPerf.ucsf.edu for November and December films and show times. (Movies subject to change.)

Oct. 10 at 5:45 & 8:15 p.m.
Oct. 11 &12 at 6:30 & 9 p.m.
Phenomenon

Oct. 17 at 5:45 & 8:15 p.m.
Oct. 18 &19 at 6:30 & 8:30 p.m.
Hunchback of Notre Dame

Oct. 24 at 5:45 & 8:15 p.m.
Oct. 25 & 26 at 6:30 & 9 p.m.
Courage Under Fire

Volunteer Orientation

Program to acquaint prospective volunteers with opportunities available in the Medical Center at UCSF. Meetings take place at Langley Porter Psychiatric Institute Auditorium, 401 Parnassus, and at UCSF/Mount Zion in Herbst Hall, 1600 Divisadero. For dates and times of Parnassus orientations call 476-1196. Call 885-7353 for UCSF/Mount Zion schedule.

Art Exhibits

Through November 27
Lynette Cook. Mixed media works will be on display in Faculty/Alumni House, 745 Parnassus, through Wednesday, Nov. 27. Open Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 476-4723.

Ongoing Meetings & Hotlines

Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group: Facilitated by a social worker, this group is for those caring for someone with Alzheimer's or a related dementia. Meets the first Saturday of the month. Co-sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association. 10:30 a.m.-noon. UCSF/Mount Zion Center on Aging Alzheimer's Day Care Center, 3600 Geary Blvd. Call 800-660-1993.

AWAKE: Alert, Well And Keeping Energetic is a support and education group for people with sleep apnea and their families. Meets the third Thursday of each month and features guest speakers on topics relating to sleep apnea, followed by time for socializing and support. Bring your CPAP equipment to have it checked by a homecare specialist. Sponsored by UCSF/Mount Zion Sleep Disorders Center. Call 885-7886.

Cancer Programs/Support Groups: UCSF/Mount Zion Cancer Center offers free cancer programs, dance therapy, t'ai chi, exercise, nutrition classes, and support groups for breast, colon and head and neck cancer patients. Call 885-3693 for reservations.

Cancer Referral Hotline: The UCSF Cancer Referral Service enables cancer patients to place just one telephone call and learn the names of UCSF doctors specializing in the kind of treatment they need. Call 800-888-8664.

Look Good, Feel Better: Expert advice on makeup, wigs and the use of turbans provided for people who have undergone chemotherapy or radiation. Held every other month in 11 Long Solarium, Long Hospital, 505 Parnassus, and at UCSF/Mount Zion, 1600 Divisadero. Co-sponsored by the American Cancer Society and supported by the Donna Smith Fund. Call 476-1383 to pre-register for Parnassus meetings, 885-3693 for UCSF/Mount Zion meetings.

UCSF

University of California San Francisco
Public Affairs
3333 California Street, Suite 103
San Francisco, CA 94143-0462

Heart disease is the leading killer of women in the US

She does not want to be a statistic.

So, Jo-Anne O'Hare exercises her options. She goes to the gym four days a week, sweating it out either on the stationary bicycle, rowing machine or Stairmaster. On weekends, she routinely takes three-mile walks in which the homestretch is six steep blocks up to her Russian Hill apartment. At work, the 53-year-old legal secretary uses the stairs when running errands up and down the office's four floors.

It was three years ago at the gym when Jo-Anne noticed a flyer recruiting post-menopausal women for a UCSF study on heart disease risks. Today, she's glad that she made the call and became a participant in the UCSF's FLASH (Female Lipids Activity and Sex Hormones) study. Led by cardiologist Rita Redberg, it focuses on heart disease risk factors in women and new ways to noninvasively image coronary arteries for early warning signs. Although Jo-Anne was symptom free, doctors found her to be a candidate for heart disease.

Many believe that heart disease primarily targets men; however, it strikes women in equal numbers. More men have heart attacks than women, and they have them earlier in life. After menopause, however, more women than men die from heart attacks. Cholesterol levels in women typically rise after mid-life and menopause, when they lose the protective effect of estrogen.

For Jo-Anne, tests led by Mary Malloy, a cardiovascular disease and lipid expert, found that her cholesterol had soared over the years to potentially dangerous levels. A questionnaire forced her to ponder her family medical history, which revealed a hereditary risk. Jo-Anne's mother died of heart disease at age 47, but she also learned that it killed her paternal grandparents and several uncles. "Everyone should get this information now — before it's too late," she says. "I joined the program because I feel strongly that being informed is vital to surviving an emergency."

Tom Weller

Other tests for Jo-Anne included angiography, ultrafast CT, and a treadmill exercise echocardiography test which she passed with ease.

Redberg also is studying whether exercise can protect women against heart disease. For exercise enthusiast Jo-Anne, this is right up her alley. Redberg and research nurse Julie Russell have advised her to even step up her activity. So she walks extra blocks instead of taking the bus all the way, and she shuns the elevator at work. This type of non-gym exercise is just as important, she says. Jo-Anne also has become more conscious of her diet as she tries to reduce fat consumption. "I now read every food label carefully."

Doctors and nurses will advise her and follow her progress for years to come, but preventing heart disease is in Jo-Anne's hands — and exercise-active legs. And that's the way she likes it.

—Andy Evangelista

For more information on the FLASH study, call 476-9401, and for other women's heart disease risk studies, call 476-2754.

❑ Yes, I am interested in receiving an information packet of UCSF job application materials.

Name

Address

Daytime Telephone Number

(fold here)

See reverse side of self-mailer below for a related story on employment opportunities.

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To Our Neighbors
October/November/December 1996

UCSF, California Pacific introduce Brown & Toland Medical Group

Survey rates UCSF, SFGH among nation's best hospitals

UCSF Human Resources seeks qualified applicants

UCSF
University of California San Francisco
3333 California Street, Suite 103, San Francisco, CA 94143-0462

To Our Neighbors

UCSF seeks to fill hundreds of jobs

UCSF is known nationally for its research prowess, biomedical advances and teaching skills. But as a source of jobs, it often is strangely invisible. Part of the problem, admits Catherine Pedersen, interim manager, staffing and compensation at UCSF Human Resources, is that because San Franciscans and other Bay Area residents consider UCSF a medical center first, they often assume that the University hires only doctors and nurses.

"People always are surprised when I tell them that we have more than 300 clerical and research jobs open on an average day," says Pedersen. Indeed, more than 40 percent of all jobs at UCSF fall into these categories.

Although some 15,000 resumes remain on active status in the Human Resources' computer system, there continues to be a shortage of highly skilled administrative and clerical applicants with computer, organizational and communications savvy. "In the health care area alone, we need admitting workers, unit clerks, insurance billers and authorization workers, call center assistants and surgery schedulers," says Pedersen. "These all are intellectually challenging and demanding jobs with competitive salaries and excellent benefits."

In trying to pinpoint why so many jobs have a dearth of qualified applicants, Pedersen acknowledges that the ongoing merger talks between the UCSF Medical Center and Stanford Health Systems and the consequent fear of layoffs may have dampened enthusiasm for UCSF as a potential employer. But what applicants may not realize, she adds, is that with more than 15,000 full and part-time faculty and staff employees — far less than half of whom are Medical Center employees — UCSF "will still be hiring no matter what happens."

And once hired, many employees, 55 percent of whom live in San Francisco, decide to stay and build careers. More than 12 percent of employees, for example, have been at UCSF for more than 20 years, and almost two-thirds, six years or more. "We think it is an ideal place for professional growth," says Pedersen, who points to the 600 internal promotions in 1995 alone as proof. At the same time, UCSF continues to hire large numbers of casual employees, generally defined as those hired with an ending date of less than one year. There is a temporary employee program as well. Adds Pedersen, "We have a great deal of information available, all of which we are happy to share with anyone who is interested." For more information on how to apply for a job at UCSF, the range of jobs available as well as interview-preparation workshops, please fill out the form inside and return. Those interested may also want to call UCSF's job hotline at 502-JOBS.

Body temperature regulation object of new study

The UCSF Thermoregulation Research Laboratory is conducting a study to evaluate the effects of two opiod drugs, meperidine and alfentanil, on body temperature regulation. The study lasts three days: two 8-hour 'drug days,' and one 4-hour control day. On each day, participants will receive cold saline solution through a catheter and be cooled until shivering. Participants must be in good health, 18-35 years old, non-smoking and drug and medication free. Participants will be paid $650. To participate, call the Thermoregulation Research Office at 476-3169.

Ongoing muscle function studies need volunteers

Researchers are looking for non-smoking, sedentary men and women with and without multiple sclerosis (MS) to participate in ongoing studies of muscle, cardiovascular function and fatigue in persons with MS. The study is jointly sponsored by the UCSF Department of Radiology and the California Pacific Medical Center Department of Neurology. Muscle function, blood pressure and heart rate during rest and excercise will be measured. Volunteers must be 20-55 years old, and free from heart disease, high blood pressure and diabetes. Participants with MS must have had no exacerbations within the last six months. Subject payment is available. Call Alex Ng at 751-9741 to register.